

ABINGDON-EMMORTON COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 7, 2015

LOCATION: Abingdon Branch HCPL

START TIME: 6:30PM

END TIME: 7:45PM

MINUTES RECORDED BY: Elaine Orbino

ATTENDANCE

GUESTS/COMMUNITY

Andrew Tress, Citizens Affairs Specialist, HCG
Debbie Button, LA to Council Member Jim McMahan
Lieutenant HJ Dougherty, HC Sheriff's Office
Sam Kahl, Chief of Staff, Senator Bob Cassilly
Lydia Brennan, LA to Council Member Curtis Beulah
Shane Grimm, Chief of Long Range Planning, HCG
Mike Carr
Rick Schreiber
Cynthia Lince
Debbie Button, LA Councilman Jim McMahan
Lisa Wilson-Young
Mike Scheuerman
Susan McComas, Delegate
Sam Kahl, Bob Cassilly's office

ADVISORY BOARD

Cynthia Hergenbahn, Chair (present)
Dr. Micah Humbert (present)
Elaine Orbino (present)
Sarasimone Borchers (present)
Lisa Wilson-Young (present)
Delia Henry
Lonnie Vick (present)
Dr. Jacques Conaway (present)
Michael Carr (present)

SPEAKER PRESENTATION:

Presenter: Shane Grimm, Chief of Long Range Planning, HCG

Topic: Planning and Zoning/Review of New Master Plan, Harford NEXT

Mr. Grimm presented Harford NEXT, a guiding policy document and update from 2012 that is a strategic approach to land use and a new approach to the master plan.

County Executive Barry Glassman has requested the execution of this master plan that is titled, "Harford NEXT: A Master Plan for the Next Generation," and moves from an element approach to themes.

Themes include:

Grow With Purpose: Protecting and upgrading infrastructure; Reinvesting in existing communities; Emphasizing high-quality community design; Adapting to a rapidly changing world;

Preserving our Heritage: Valuing our cultural resources; Inspiring future generations; Educating people about Harford County's rich and diverse past; Documenting Harford County's unique array of historic resource;

Economic Vitality: Promoting a climate for economic success; Creating jobs and fostering innovation; Expanding opportunities for small business; Diversifying our workforce;

Mobility and Connectivity: Promoting access to multi-modal transportation; Creating a sense of community and place; Reducing reliance on the automobile; Encouraging livability through mixed use and transit oriented development;

Environmental Stewardship: Protecting environmentally sensitive areas of the County; Reducing habitat loss; Adopting sustainable development practices; Sustaining productive agricultural lands;

Promoting Healthy Communities: Creating an environment that promotes an active lifestyle; Providing access to healthy food choices and preventative health services; Fostering healthy childhood development; Combating addiction and the heroin epidemic

The first Community Input Meeting had occurred and provided departmental staff with constructive feedback on the direction of Harford County as we plan for the future. More than eighty-eight people attended the first planning meeting. These meetings provide vital community engagement and input to prepare a master plan that adequately addresses and balances the needs and concerns of the citizens of Harford County.

Planning and Zoning Staff will also be reaching out to the newly reestablished Community Advisory Boards to make presentations.

In an effort to modernize community engagement, the Department has also implemented an online forum known as Open Town Hall website which will allow citizens to provide input conveniently from their computers, smart phones and tablets. Note link: <http://www.harfordcountymd.gov/PlanningZoning/index.cfm?ID=4061>
This is a high level approach looking at land use and distribution. It solicits feedback on how we want to grow and what do we want Harford county to look like in 20 years.

Culture and arts came up in the committee discussion and the group was assured that it would be addressed in one of the themes that we have outlined.

Timeline for the master plan: 1) public input; 2) plan development 3) plan adoption

The document will be written over the summer/fall and will be ready by the end of December 2015. Plan adoption: spring summer 2016.

First week of June, HCG reps will be finished meeting with all Advisory Boards.

SHERIFF'S REPRESENTATIVE (Update Sector 30/40)

Presenter: Lt HJ Dougherty

Lt Dougherty discussed issues throughout the area including deception theft particularly at the Festival in Bel Air and other areas.

Thefts from automobiles, grocery carts, purses on the backs of chairs and vulnerable places such as fitness centers and day care centers was discussed. Crime has increased all throughout entire county.

School policing for many cell phone thefts and gym locker rooms noted.

Lt HJ Dougherty provided a handout that covered a brief on theft of purses and wallets and tips on being a good witness to the police.

COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATES

Delegate Susan McComas Report:

Baltimore: Delegate McComas reported that it was an interesting legislative session. A work group or task force for the community and police relations and how it can be improved has been formed.

WalMart: The Walmart update is that there is a concern about the traffic study. Walmart does not want to contribute to the road improvements. They have the zoning. Serious money is involved. They only have to have certain intersections up to code. Cynthia Hergenbahn has recommended that a rep from the state highway come in so we understand the grading system. The traffic study is on line and under planning and zoning. The project is listed under 4 coordinates. We are doubtful that this area will be pedestrian friendly. Cynthia also noted that county budget discussions are happening. The Citizens Advisory Board will meet and make recommendations to council.

Debbie Button. Legislative Aide to James Jim McMahan reports that Mr. McMahan is working on the revision of the veterans commission. Meeting is May 20 meeting at the Bel Air Library that has partnered with the veterans association.

Lydia Brennan. (Legislative Aide to Council Member Curtis Beulah, reports that Mr. Beulah will be attending our advisory meetings in the future.

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

Andrew Tress, Citizens Affairs Specialist, HCG

Mr. Tress will attend all meetings for all communities and would like to reach out to businesses, developers, county reps, and all community services.

A question was raised regarding representation for the Greater Bel Air Council and it was shared that this community can attend the Emmorton/Abingdon group.

The highlights from the By-Laws were reviewed. Attendance expectations were reviewed. It was noted that students can be elected to the Board and serve as a 1 year

voting member. A standardized uniform agenda will be sent out prior to each meeting. We will vote on a Vice Chair and Secretary

Mr. Tress referred to the new Planning And Zoning Track It App.

He also mentioned about a complaint driven letter regarding hoops in the street and the outcome. Regarding tourism, the hotel tax was passed and the grant application deadline is past.

Mr. Tress has also reached out to various areas of the county. Harford County was noted to have Best Recycling. Cynthia Hergenbahn recommended that someone from public water and sewer be a guest. Trash update to go on future agenda.

The question was raised, what do we want to see from our council representatives. Intersection analysis was recommended. Speeding is a concern in the county. Email a laundry list of items to Mr. Tress to be addressed.

It was also recommended that we have a list of all county council representatives.

A community advisory Facebook page was recommended.

The role of board was discussed. This Board is representing the Abingdon/Emmorton area. Our goal is to provide people with correct information and serve as a consolidated source reference. Reminder to utilize county council members and additional resources such as Harford County Government representatives.

It was also recommended that we consider a website over Facebook and the group discussed the advantages of the prior Facebook page. We could consider a website as well. Good tool to share meeting information, however, we need someone to take charge of the website.

UPCOMING 2015 MEETINGS

Location: Abingdon Branch of the HCPL

All meetings start at 6:30PM

June 4

July 2

August 6

September 3

October 1

November 5

December 3